

and I am fully, fully supportive of this effort.

Again, this is the kind of bipartisan-ship the country expects. When China is pushing the boundaries, they don't want Democrats and Republicans pointing fingers at each other. They don't want any premature attacks. They want us to come together to respond to the threats posed by the CCP, and that is just what we did last night.

Now, yesterday's resolution was not the only way the Senate was focused on standing firm against the CCP. We also, yesterday, had a briefing from the Department of Defense on our ongoing competition with China. I want to thank the briefing team for their hard and ongoing work. While all the details are classified, I want to make a few points.

First, the United States is competing with China at every level: economically, militarily, geopolitically, technologically, in terms of our fundamental values, and more. It won't be enough to outcompete China in any single area. We must be ready to compete with them on all of these fronts because that is what China is trying to do.

Second, China's main goal with respect to the United States is to displace us. Their main goal with respect to the United States is to displace us, displace NATO in Europe, and displace our allies as the world leaders on the military and geopolitical side and in driving the innovations of tomorrow, many of which affect our national security: AI, quantum computing, 5G and other advanced communications technologies, bio manufacturing, clean tech, and especially—especially—the next generation of semiconductors.

China wants to be ahead of us on everything because, if they do, they will be the ones writing the rules of the road on these technologies. An autocracy writing these rules, an autocracy that often uses these technologies to oppress its people and spy on them, that would have dangerous consequences for the world's democratic nations. A change in those rules with China in the lead would make the world a safe haven, unfortunately, for autocracy.

And, finally, the Chinese Communist Party is not constraining itself in pursuit of these goals. They are all in. They will do whatever it takes to beat us, and if we do not respond in kind, we won't be able to keep up.

So yesterday's briefing made a couple of things exceedingly clear for the Senate and, frankly, for the House. Most importantly, yesterday's briefing on our competition with China reaffirmed the need for Congress to work together and pass a clean debt limit without brinksmanship, without hostage-taking. Few things would hand the world over to the Chinese Communist Party more than a first-ever default by the United States. Defaulting would send a loud and clear message to the world that America cannot be trusted, that

squabbling democracies are incapable of governing, and that the best days of our country are squarely behind us. To prevent China from overtaking us, we must raise the debt ceiling on a bipartisan basis as soon as we can—no chaos, no brinksmanship, no default.

Yesterday's briefing also made clear that the kind of cuts that MAGA Republicans are pushing would be a disaster for staying ahead on China. China would love to see the kind of cuts that the MAGA wing of the Republican Party is pushing. It would guarantee that they would overtake us across the board—on defense and military preparedness; on innovation; on American manufacturing, science, and workforce; and so much more—so much more.

So let me say it again. China would love nothing more than to see the kinds of cuts across the board that MAGA Republicans are pushing.

The kind of cuts Republicans are talking about are dangerous. Instead, Congress must complete the appropriations process as we have in the last 2 years. China is all in on beating us. They are going to do whatever it takes. And as the Chinese Communist Party drives their country forward, the worst thing we can do is put America in reverse with funding levels from 2 years ago. It would be malpractice given what is at stake.

Now, we have done some good, important work to outcompete China in the last few years under this Democratic-led Senate: infrastructure, CHIPS and Science, the IRA, and last year's omnibus bill. But we shouldn't stop there. We need to ensure all of those bipartisan efforts are funded. We need to redouble our efforts. We need to keep pushing ahead.

There is no doubt that the United States and our allies and partners remain the world leaders militarily, economically, and in innovation.

But if that is to continue, the United States must be all in—all in—on outcompeting China and make it clear to President Xi that his autocratic campaign to dominate the 21st century will not—will not—succeed.

MEDICAID

Mr. President, now, on another important issue, I have a few, I think, very important things to talk about today, including the bill we passed last year and the briefing and its effect on what we should do in terms of debt ceiling and our budget. But here is another one: Medicaid.

Yesterday, I joined with a few of my colleagues to shine light on how radical out-of-touch MAGA Republicans in the House are. In the House budget, they are putting pen to paper on proposals that would devastate American families and slash the programs that millions of people rely on. These are not abstract issues. They would cause immense pain to countless Americans.

Republicans have been scrambling over the past few days to try to convince the American people that they won't touch Medicare or Social Secu-

rity, even though we literally have years' worth of statements and speeches showing that many of them believe just the opposite.

But another critical question remains unanswered and must be addressed. Are Republicans also going to target Medicaid? Medicaid is one of the most important programs in the country. One in four Americans rely on Medicaid to cover their healthcare needs.

Let me say that again. One in four Americans rely on Medicaid to cover healthcare needs.

It is not just low-income Americans that benefit from Medicaid—as important as helping them is, which, of course, it is—it is also middle-class families who have to pay, for instance, to put their parents in nursing homes. A couple in their mid forties, who have parents in nursing homes or assisted living, would have a huge burden placed upon them if Medicaid were slashed. These families work hard. Cutting Medicaid would put a huge economic burden on them as they struggle and work to stay in the middle class.

And Medicaid helps others too: people with disabilities, pregnant women, children, and so many more.

Let me say again: Medicaid is absolutely a middle-class issue in addition to helping low-income Americans. And we, on our side, want to help both.

Are Republicans going to strip away coverage for one in four Americans? We really don't know because Republicans won't show us their plan.

Americans are right to be worried about their Medicaid benefits because these MAGA proposals are coming right at them, at their expense. We must work to protect and strengthen programs like Medicaid, not put them on the chopping block.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Mr. President, finally, ESG. Reports are out that Republicans will introduce a measure targeting a new rule from the Department of Labor that allows—repeat: allows; not requires—allows fiduciaries to consider the impacts of climate change and other ESG issues when making investment decisions.

Across the country, hard-right State legislatures are up in arms trying to stop State investment funds from working with money managers who dare commit the oh-so-heinous offense of looking at the big picture when making investments, including how climate change and other issues can present financial risks.

I just want to point out the obvious: Nothing in this DOL rule imposes any requirement on anyone.

Let me say that again. Nothing in the DOL rule that they seek to repeal imposes any requirement on anyone. In fact, it goes out of its way to make sure decision-making remains solely in the hands of the fiduciary.

Republicans love to talk about small government and letting the private sector do its work. But their obsession with eliminating ESG would do just

the opposite. Many companies realize that as we move to clean energy, their path to profitability depends on adapting to those changes. Hard-right MAGA Republicans—climate deniers, they are—are trying to straitjacket those companies with their ideological obsessions and prevent them from adapting to the future for their own good and for the good of the country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

CRIME

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, a growing share of American citizens across the political spectrum say tackling rampant crime must be a top priority. And it is certainly no mystery why they feel that way. Just take my own hometown. One neighborhood in East Louisville just endured more than 30 burglaries in 30 days.

Last year, Washington, DC, saw 203 homicides. Those victims included 18 children, a huge increase over the prior year.

And 2023 is already off to an even worse start. Homicides and carjackings are already ahead of last year's pace. Last week, the city's crime wave touched Congress directly. A Congresswoman from Minnesota, Representative ANGIE CRAIG, was attacked in the elevator of her own apartment building right here in the District.

It turns out the Congresswoman's attacker had been arrested and convicted no fewer than 12 times before, most recently for assaulting a Metropolitan police officer. But there he was, this career criminal, just out roaming the streets.

As the Congresswoman herself put it afterwards:

We have to get these repeat offenders off the street.

You are darn right we do. Unfortunately, the radical local government here is doing precisely the opposite.

The DC Council has responded to the crime wave—listen to this—with a new bill to make the city even softer on crime. It lowers maximum penalties for violent crimes and creates new ways to shorten the sentences of incarcerated felons.

Well, the good news is the Constitution actually gives the U.S. Congress final say over issues in our Nation's Capital. And when the soft-on-crime local government has become completely incompetent; when Members of Congress can't go about their daily lives without being attacked; when families cannot come to visit our cap-

ital in safety, then it is about time the Federal Government provides some adult supervision.

Senate Republicans, led by our colleague from Tennessee BILL HAGERTY, are leading an effort to use the rightful authority of Congress to address this emergency.

Last week, the Republican House passed their companion bill as well. And things have gotten so undeniably bad that more than 30 House Democrats crossed the aisle to support it.

So I hope the Senate Democratic leader will put partisanship aside and turn to Senator HAGERTY's measure quickly when we reconvene. The safety and security of our citizens simply cannot wait.

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, Putin's brutal war on Ukraine has forced both us Americans and our friends in Europe to take a long, hard look at our country's commitments to military spending and self-defense.

NATO and the West have let important capabilities actually atrophy over time: like defense funding; like military modernization; like looking after our defense industrial base, which creates good American jobs, ensures our own security, and allows us to be the arsenal for our friends and allies.

It serves America's core national interests for us to exercise strong leadership in the world. Our security and Europe's security are interlinked. Our economies are intertwined. But the rest of NATO must do more to follow our lead: increase defense spending, upgrade their capabilities, and put skin in the game.

Tomorrow, I will be taking this message directly to our European friends in person. With a number of our colleagues, I will be traveling to the Munich Security Conference. I will come as a staunch supporter of NATO, but I will also come with homework assignments for our European friends. I will speak as a friend, but I will speak frankly.

Hard power is what kept the peace during the Cold War. Our allies simply have to reinvest in hard power. In the short term, both America and our allies need to serve our own interests by investing in the munitions and weapons systems that will help Ukraine defeat the invasion.

But this chapter of realism and resolve can't end with Ukraine, because the long-term threats and challenges that we face actually go much deeper. A nuclear-armed Russia poses a threat to the United States and to NATO. And China poses an even greater threat still to American interests and those of our allies.

These challenges are multifaceted; they are global; and they are actually only growing. So I look forward to talking to our allies in Munich, both about America's resolve to lead and Europe's responsibility to shoulder more of the load.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on one final matter, yesterday, the Judiciary Committee witnessed another disaster of a performance from one of President Biden's nominees. This time, the President wants a lifetime appointment for a New Hampshire lawyer who represented an ultra-elite private high school against a 15-year-old girl who was suing the school after she had been sexually assaulted on campus.

Lawyers serve unpopular tasks all the time, but while representing the powerful prep school, Michael Delaney subjected the teenage victim and her family to unusually aggressive hardball tactics. They were, frankly, shocking.

The young lady and her family had hoped to file a lawsuit anonymously as Jane Doe and persuade the school to change its ways. That was the path to accountability. But Mr. Delaney fought the girl's desire for privacy and anonymity to use as a weapon against her. He said he would only let the girl remain anonymous if she was subjected to a gag order about the incident. And he threatened that if the family refused to settle on terms favorable to the school and went to trial, he would ask the court to reveal her name. In other words, Delaney tried to turn a teenage victim's privacy into a hostage to help a prep school avoid accountability. The girl's father saw Delaney's behavior for what it was. He called it a "threat."

The victim says she spoke to the Biden Department of Justice while they were vetting Mr. Delaney. Apparently, the administration ignored her. So, apparently, did her two Senators. According to the Boston Globe, the victim's parents pleaded their case against Delaney to both our colleagues from New Hampshire. But instead of taking the family's pain to heart, both of their Senators returned blue slips anyway. They even personally introduced Delaney at his hearing.

Democrats have long claimed they want empathy in their judges. I prefer, frankly, neutrality and faithfulness to the Constitution, myself, but empathy is what liberals say they want. I defy anyone to watch yesterday's hearing and find one ounce of empathy in Delaney for this child victim.

My colleagues across the aisle will have to catch a rerun because almost none—listen to this—almost none of the Judiciary Committee Democrats could even bring themselves to show up for yesterday's hearing. They avoided the hearing. They didn't want to hear it.

But guess who did attend. The brave young woman's family was there. They wanted Delaney to know they will never forget how he treated their daughter.

So I would urge the President to reconsider this nomination and urge my colleagues to reject it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.